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Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman Touts Governor's Delta Vision; Bond Proposals at Tulare County's World Ag Expo

Tulare, Calif. - California Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman today outlined a plan to ensure the stability of California's water future in the face of global climate change. Speaking before a public forum from 10:30 a.m. until noon at the World Ag Expo, Chrisman detailed Governor Schwarzenegger's "Delta Vision" and outlined a bond proposal to invest \$5.95 billion in additional improvements to the Delta ecosystem, new reservoirs and water conservation.

"As we recognize the rapidly changing dynamics of our planet, and the challenge that global climate change presents, the way we manage our water infrastructure must also change," Chrisman said. "Thanks to Governor Schwarzenegger's leadership, we are securing a safe and reliable water supply, protecting people and property from flood and ensuring the state's productive agricultural harvest."

Chrisman joined Secretary for California's Department of Food and Agriculture, A.G. Kawamura, U.S. Department of Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary Jason Peltier and Luana Kiger, special assistant to the state conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture in a panel discussion and public forum.

By 2050, scientists project a 25 percent reduction in the state's snowpack. Reductions in snowpack and earlier snowmelt will require more storage space to prevent flooding and ensure reliable water supplies. Warmer water temperatures will also impact the Delta ecosystem, reducing water quality and threatening its wildlife.

In 2006, voters approved bond measures to provide more than \$4 billion for flood management and prevention and nearly \$1 billion for groundwater storage, conservation, recycling and other water management actions.

"Climate-induced change of water supply has been going on for 50 years and we need to manage it now. Propositions 1E and 84 have put a lot of money on the table to start changing the nature of the system," Chrisman said. "We can't do things the way we've always done them. Now more than ever, we need to work together to safeguard our future."

Continuing his leadership on a comprehensive water investment strategy, the Governor has proposed an additional \$4.5 billion for surface and groundwater storage, \$1 billion for Delta sustainability, \$250 million for resources stewardship, and \$200 million for water conservation. New construction of surface water storage would most likely occur near the community of Sites on the west side of the Sacramento Valley, and Temperance Flat on the San Joaquin River east of Fresno.

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